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47853

Assistant Director for Operations

20 October 1949

Acting Chief, Foreign Documents Division

Intelligence Reporting by Foreign Documents Division

1. In the course of our reporting factual intelligence information appearing in overt foreign language publications, we have noted from time to time that additional information of intelligence value and not fitting the above category becomes available to us through daily contact with these publications.

2. This refers to a category of reporting that may be characterized by the following points:

a. Apparently Deliberate Omissions of names, places or events. If we are to adhere strictly to the reporting of factual information only as it appears, then we cannot report what does not appear. This point would mean a factual reporting of such omissions as we note.

b. Shifts in editorial policy of a newspaper. In this case, there may be no significant factual information in the paper, but the reporting of a change in their slanting of the news may be of value and concern.

c. Additional notes on a publication as a source. For example, past proof of accurate reporting. These would be designed to assist the ORE analyst in his evaluation.

d. Factual footnotes or parentheses. This would include notes of reference or fact which we think may be of value to the ORE analyst.

e. Collation or summation of collateral material. This would include lists of new abbreviations, lists of newspapers and periodicals, lists of institutes or organizations with their foreign language titles, organizational structures, new terms with their nearest English equivalents etc.. This material must be maintained by us in our work to save time and to present most accurately in English the information as it appears. Such material, if it might be of value to intelligence analysts, we would like to make available.

f. Reporting of unusual methods of presentation in a newspaper for apparently insignificant information. This may or may not be significant, but if not reported the ORE analyst loses all chance to judge and evaluate.

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j. From the above, you will note that, in our daily reading of hundreds of newspapers and periodicals, we observe many types of information. We do not desire to report any conclusions from this, but merely wish to present in a clear-cut manner what we observe in the hope that this may be of assistance to the intelligence officer who reads our reports.

k. It is accordingly requested that FID be authorized to proceed in its reporting along the lines outlined in Paragraph 2, in addition to its normal reporting of factual information appearing in foreign language publications.

J. J. BAGNALL

JJB/alb

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REMARKS:

Please Expedite  
I think this might be  
helpful. *[Signature]*

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REMARKS:

Attached is memorandum from Chief, FDD covering the problem we discussed on Oct 19th. I would very much like to have ORE comments on its proposal.

OCT 21 1949  
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